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ADVENTURES OF THE GARBAGE GREMLIN

RECYCLE AND COMBAT A LIFE OF GRIME

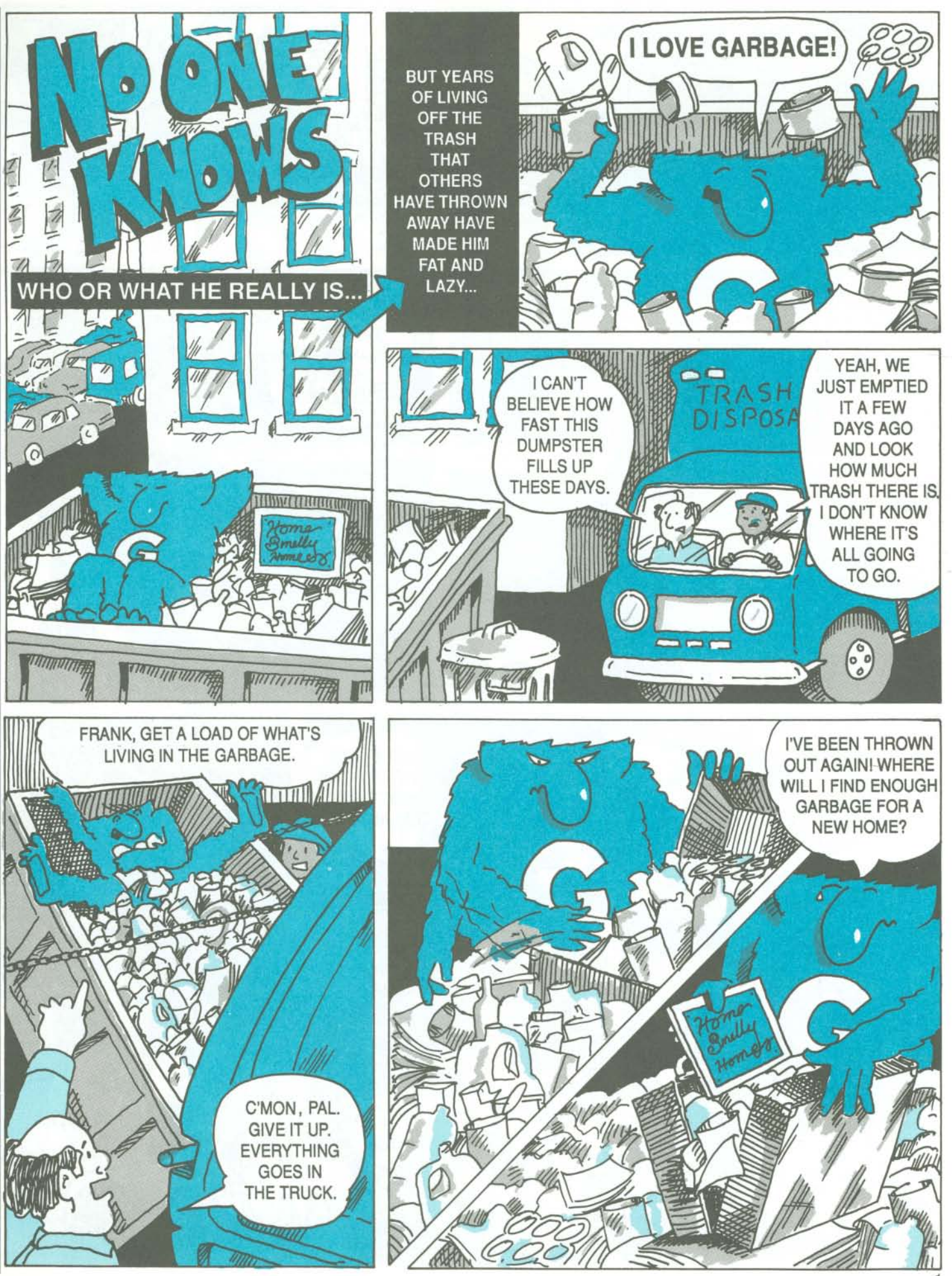
EPA
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

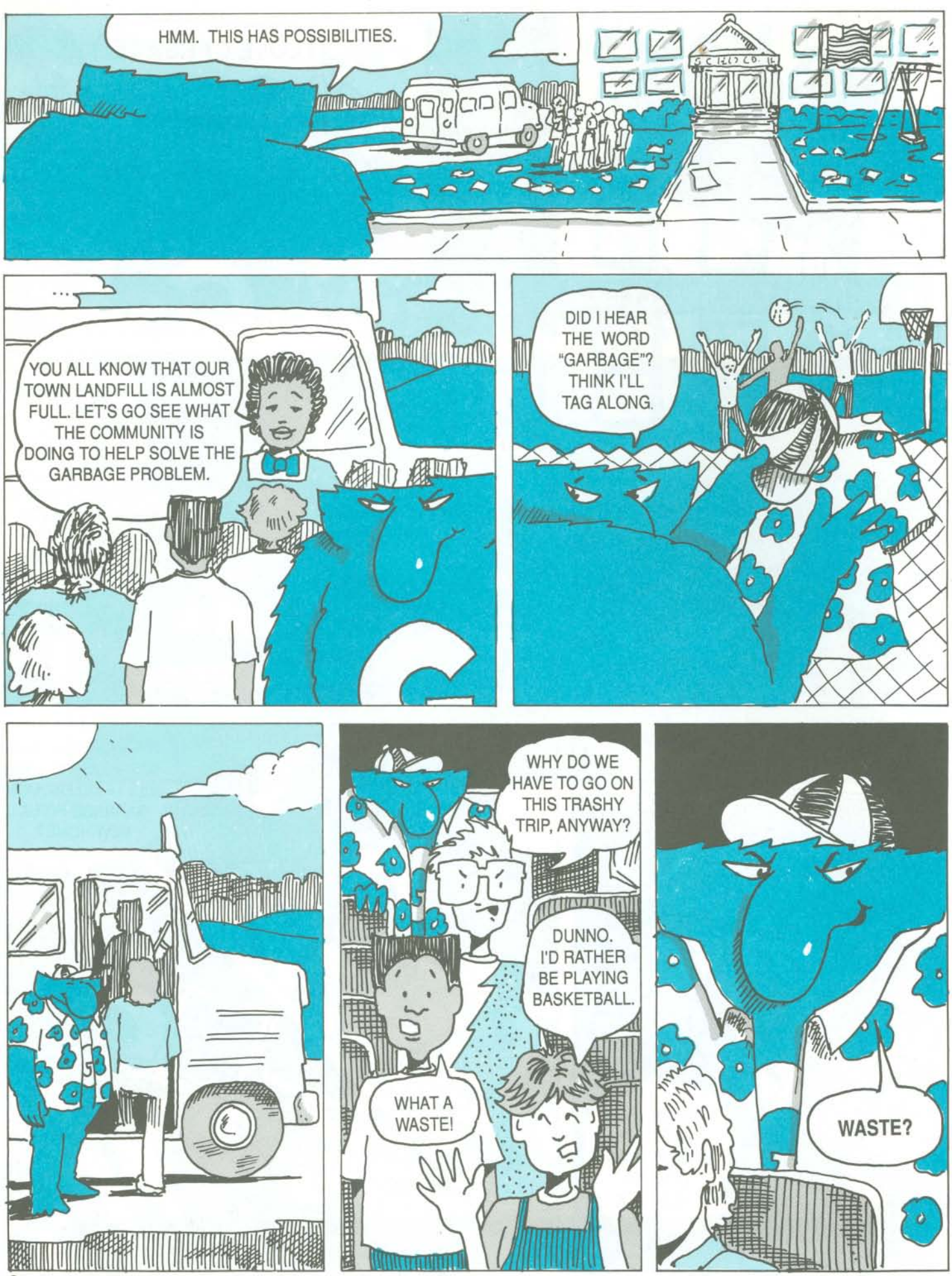
Note to the Teacher

The Adventures of the Garbage Gremlin: Recycle and Combat a Life of Grime (EPA/530-SW-90-024) is part of "Recycle Today," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's educational program on recycling. It can be used in conjunction with *Let's Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness* (EPA/530-SW-90-005) and *School Recycling Programs: A Handbook for Educators* (EPA/530-SW-90-023) to introduce students to the benefits of recycling. A poster, *Recycle Today! Ride the Wave of the Future* (EPA/530-SW-90-010), is also available to promote recycling and encourage students to get involved in recycling efforts in their schools. All of these materials can be ordered free of charge by writing OSW Publications, Office of Solid Waste, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460, or by calling the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

Office of Solid Waste
EPA/530-SW-90-024

Printed on Recycled Paper


NO ONE KNOWS
WHO OR WHAT HE REALLY IS...
BUT YEARS OF LIVING OFF THE TRASH THAT OTHERS HAVE THROWN AWAY HAVE MADE HIM FAT AND LAZY...
I LOVE GARBAGE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAST THIS DUMPSTER FILLS UP THESE DAYS.
YEAH, WE JUST EMPTIED IT A FEW DAYS AGO AND LOOK HOW MUCH TRASH THERE IS. I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S ALL GOING TO GO.
FRANK, GET A LOAD OF WHAT'S LIVING IN THE GARBAGE.
C'MON, PAL. GIVE IT UP. EVERYTHING GOES IN THE TRUCK.
I'VE BEEN THROWN OUT AGAIN! WHERE WILL I FIND ENOUGH GARBAGE FOR A NEW HOME?

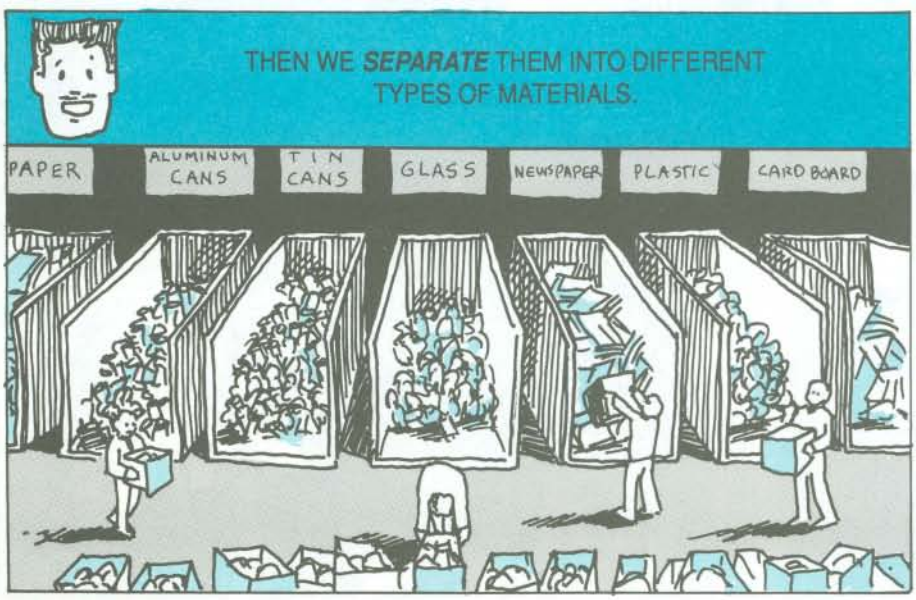

HMM. THIS HAS POSSIBILITIES.
...
YOU ALL KNOW THAT OUR TOWN LANDFILL IS ALMOST FULL. LET'S GO SEE WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS DOING TO HELP SOLVE THE GARBAGE PROBLEM.
DID I HEAR THE WORD "GARBAGE"? THINK I'LL TAG ALONG.
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO ON THIS TRASHY TRIP, ANYWAY?
DUNNO. I'D RATHER BE PLAYING BASKETBALL.
WHAT A WASTE!
WASTE?

WELCOME TO THE
CLEAN VALLEY RECYCLING CENTER
TO RECYCLE MEANS TO USE OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
RECYCLE

COLLECT
SEPARATE
REMAKE
MARKET
REUSE
THERE ARE FIVE KEY STEPS TO RECYCLING.

THIS IS A RECYCLING DROP-OFF CENTER. HERE WE *COLLECT* THE REUSABLE MATERIALS THAT PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY BRING IN FROM THEIR HOMES.
CLEAN VALLEY RECYCLING CENTER

WHO WANTS TO CARRY AROUND ALL THAT GARBAGE?


THEN WE *SEPARATE* THEM INTO DIFFERENT TYPES OF MATERIALS.
PAPER
ALUMINUM CANS
TIN CANS
GLASS
NEWSPAPER
PLASTIC
CARD BOARD

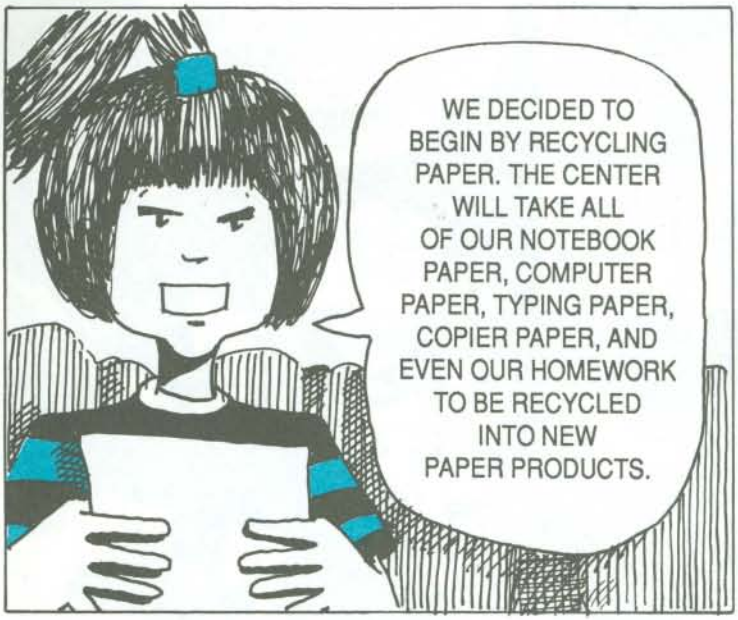
WHAT A NICE COLLECTION OF TRASH!

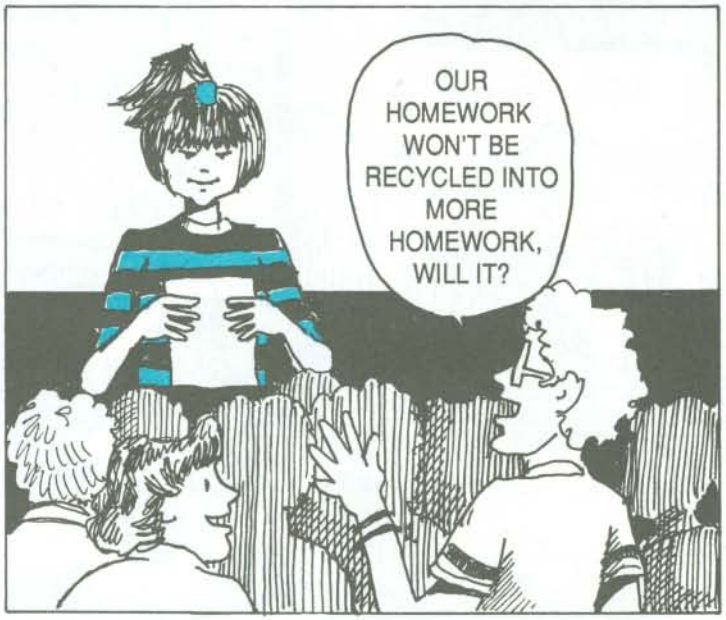
AT THIS CENTER WE COLLECT PLASTIC MILK JUGS AND SOFT DRINK CONTAINERS, ALUMINUM CANS, TIN CANS, GLASS CONTAINERS, NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD, AND PAPER.
OUR COMMUNITY ALSO RECYCLES LEAVES, GRASS, AND OTHER YARD WASTES BY TURNING THEM INTO COMPOST...
...WHICH CAN BE SPREAD IN FLOWER BEDS AND VEGETABLE GARDENS...
...TO HELP THE PLANTS GROW HEALTHY AND STRONG.
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL THESE RECYCLABLES!
WHERE *DOES* ALL THAT TRASH GO?

TRUCKS FROM VARIOUS COMPANIES COME TO TAKE AWAY THE RECYCLABLES AND MAKE THEM INTO NEW PRODUCTS.
Reusable NEWS PAPER
ACME ALUMINUM
THERE IS THE TRUCK TO COLLECT THE ALUMINUM CANS.
THOSE CANS ARE TAKEN TO THE COMPANY'S FACTORY WHERE THEY ARE MELTED DOWN AND REMADE INTO NEW CANS.
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH MY TRASH!

FINALLY, THE NEW CANS WILL BE FILLED WITH SODA AND JUICE AND ***MARKETED***, OR SOLD, AT THE SUPERMARKET...
...WHERE THEY WILL BE BOUGHT AND ***REUSED*** JUST LIKE THIS SODA CAN.
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY GARBAGE DISAPPEARS AROUND THIS PLACE.
WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF MATERIAL IS RECYCLED THE MOST?
GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS?
THAT'S A GOOD GUESS. ABOUT 5 BILLION GLASS CONTAINERS ARE COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING EACH YEAR. GLASS IS MELTED DOWN TO MAKE NEW GLASS CONTAINERS. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WE COLLECT EVEN MORE OF.
IS IT PAPER?
YES. ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF ALL PAPER IS NOW RECYCLED.
WOW.
WE MUST THROW OUT TONS OF WRITING AND DRAWING PAPER AT THE SCHOOL. MAYBE WE COULD BRING IT HERE TO BE RECYCLED INSTEAD.
WE'D REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
I CAN'T LET THEM BRING THEIR PAPER HERE TO BE RECYCLED. I'VE GOT TO FOIL THEIR PLAN!

BACK AT SCHOOL...
SCHOOL
RECYCLING MEETING TODAY
I'D BETTER CHECK THIS OUT.
HEY, YOU'RE THE KID WHO THINKS RECYCLING IS A WASTE OF TIME. WE'VE GOT SOMETHING IN COMMON. COME ON.
WE ARE WASTING VALUABLE MATERIALS BY THROWING THINGS AWAY THAT COULD BE USED AGAIN.
ONE TON 2000 lbs.
17 TREES
FOR EVERY TON OF PAPER WE RECYCLE, WE CAN SAVE 17 TREES FROM BEING CUT DOWN TO MAKE NEW PAPER.
WE'RE ALSO RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO PUT OUR TRASH. MANY OF OUR LANDFILLS ARE ALREADY FULL. IF WE KEEP THROWING GARBAGE AWAY AT THIS RATE, WE MAY NOT HAVE ANYWHERE TO PUT IT.
LANDFILL CLOSED
YESTERDAY, WE WENT TO A RECYCLING CENTER TO SEE HOW OUR SCHOOL COULD HELP OUT. BETSY HAS A REPORT.


WE DECIDED TO BEGIN BY RECYCLING PAPER. THE CENTER WILL TAKE ALL OF OUR NOTEBOOK PAPER, COMPUTER PAPER, TYPING PAPER, COPIER PAPER, AND EVEN OUR HOMEWORK TO BE RECYCLED INTO NEW PAPER PRODUCTS.


OUR HOMEWORK WON'T BE RECYCLED INTO MORE HOMEWORK, WILL IT?

WE'LL PUT COLLECTION BOXES IN EACH CLASSROOM. INSTEAD OF THROWING OUT YOUR USED PAPER, PUT IT IN THE BOX.

USE BOTH SIDES OF THE PAPER BEFORE RECYCLING IT. WE WANT TO WASTE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE!

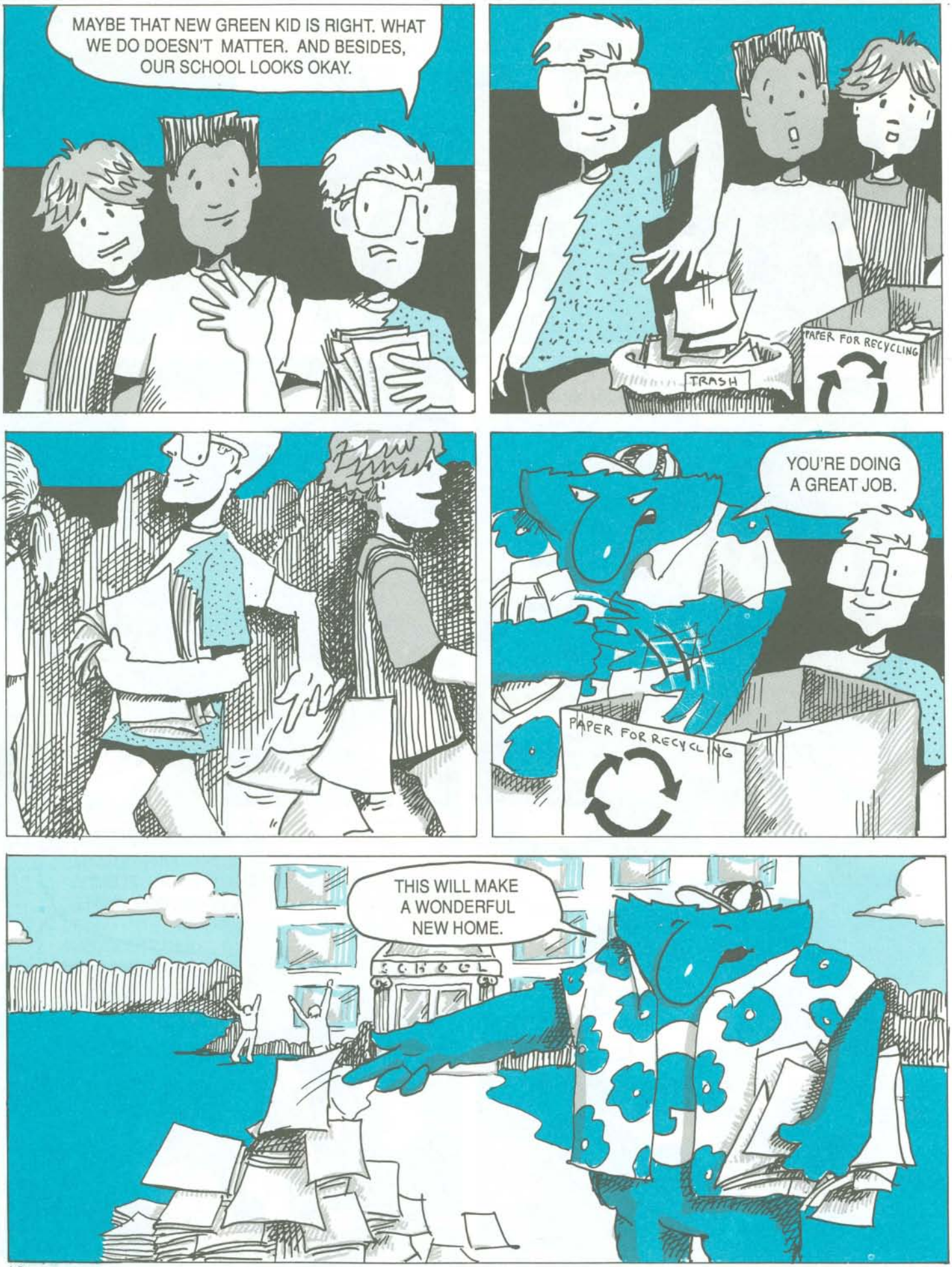
VOLUNTEERS WILL COLLECT THE BOXES EVERY DAY AND STORE THEM IN THE AUDITORIUM.

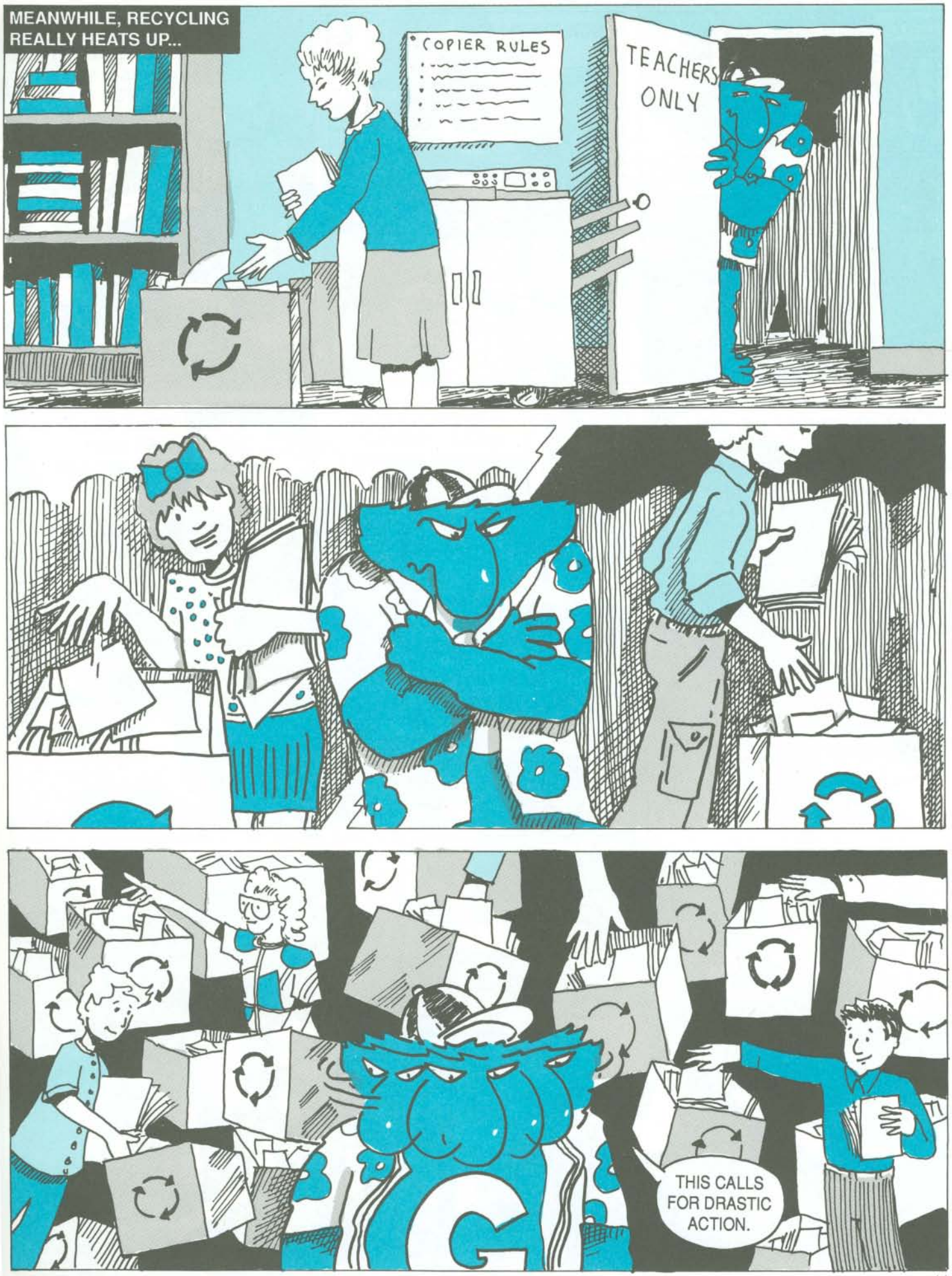
ON FRIDAY AFTERNOONS, TEACHERS WILL HELP US BRING WHAT WE'VE COLLECTED TO THE RECYCLING CENTER.

ANY QUESTIONS?
CAN WE THROW ANY KIND OF PAPER INTO THE BOXES?

EVERYTHING EXCEPT COLORED PAPER, NEWSPAPERS, AND GLOSSY PAPER LIKE MAGAZINES. THESE CAN BE RECYCLED, BUT OUR PROGRAM WILL START WITH ONLY WHITE PAPER.
TRASH TALK

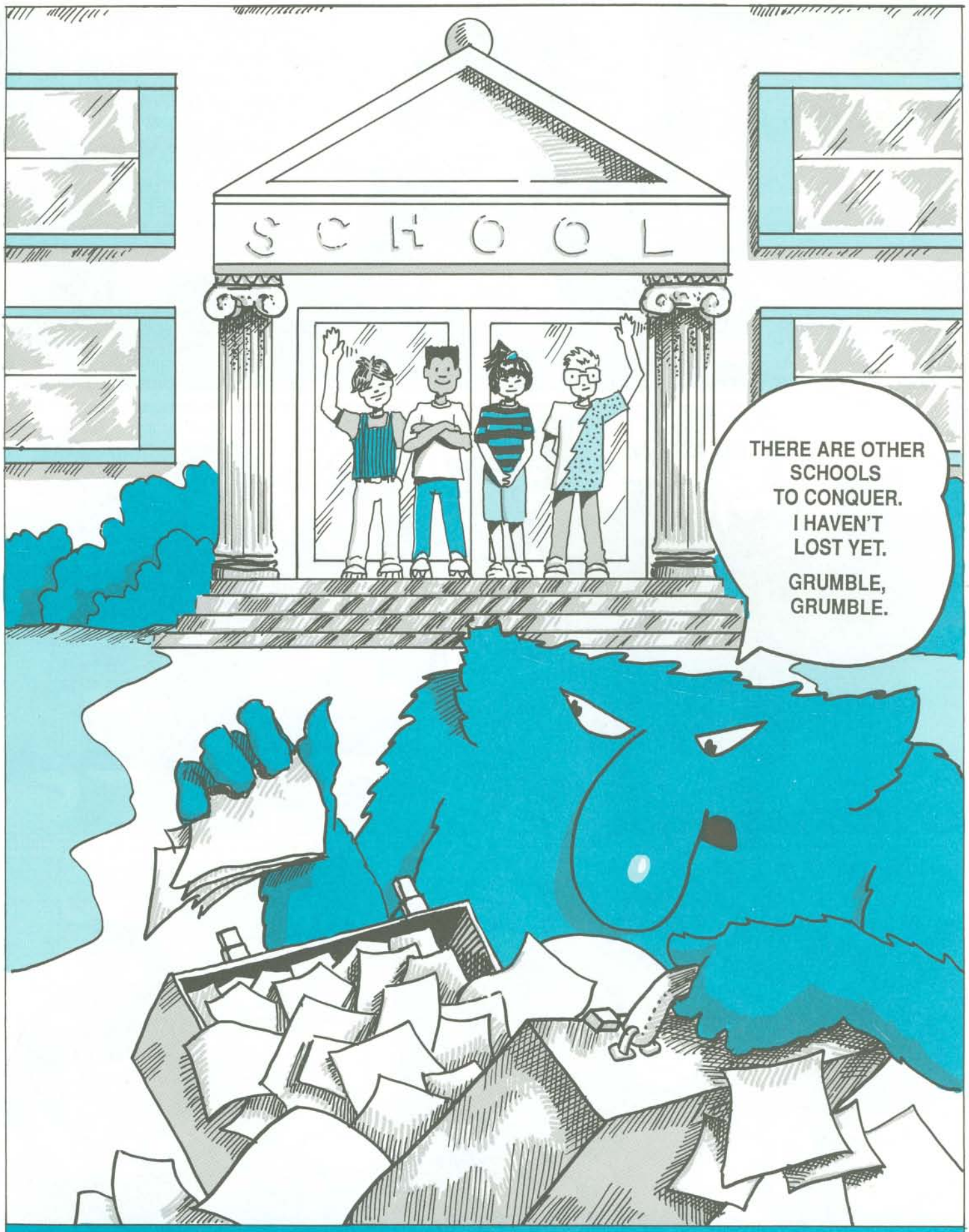
SO, IF EVERYONE WOULD TAKE A COUPLE OF THESE POSTERS ADVERTISING OUR COLLECTION...
POSTERS! OH GOOD, MORE WASTE!
DON'T FORGET! WHEN WE'RE THROUGH WITH THE POSTERS, WE'LL RECYCLE THEM TOO!
RECYCLE TODAY AT CLEAN VALLEY SCHOOL
HERE'S HOW:
COMMITTEE
GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE. I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP.
THIS RECYCLING BUSINESS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF ROOM FOR GARBAGE. WHY WASTE YOUR TIME!


MAYBE THAT NEW GREEN KID IS RIGHT. WHAT WE DO DOESN'T MATTER. AND BESIDES, OUR SCHOOL LOOKS OKAY.
TRASH
PAPER FOR RECYCLING
YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB.
PAPER FOR RECYCLING
THIS WILL MAKE A WONDERFUL NEW HOME.
SCHOOL


MEANWHILE, RECYCLING REALLY HEATS UP...
COPIER RULES
TEACHERS ONLY
THIS CALLS FOR DRASTIC ACTION.

RECYCLING CENTER
AH, HERE'S MY CHANCE!
NOW, THEY'LL TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.
HEY, MAN WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS IS NO PLACE FOR TRASH!
HEY, KID, WAKE UP AND SMELL THE GARBAGE! ANYPLACE IS A GOOD PLACE FOR TRASH!
HOW CAN WE PLAY BASKETBALL WITH ALL OF THIS GARBAGE? YOU'RE RUINING OUR WHOLE SCHOOL YARD WITH YOUR UGLY TRASH.
COME ON, GUYS, WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS.
WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN THIS UP! WHAT CAN WE DO?
WHAT ABOUT THOSE BOXES ALL OVER THE SCHOOL? I'M SURE THERE ARE A FEW EXTRA.
HMMM.

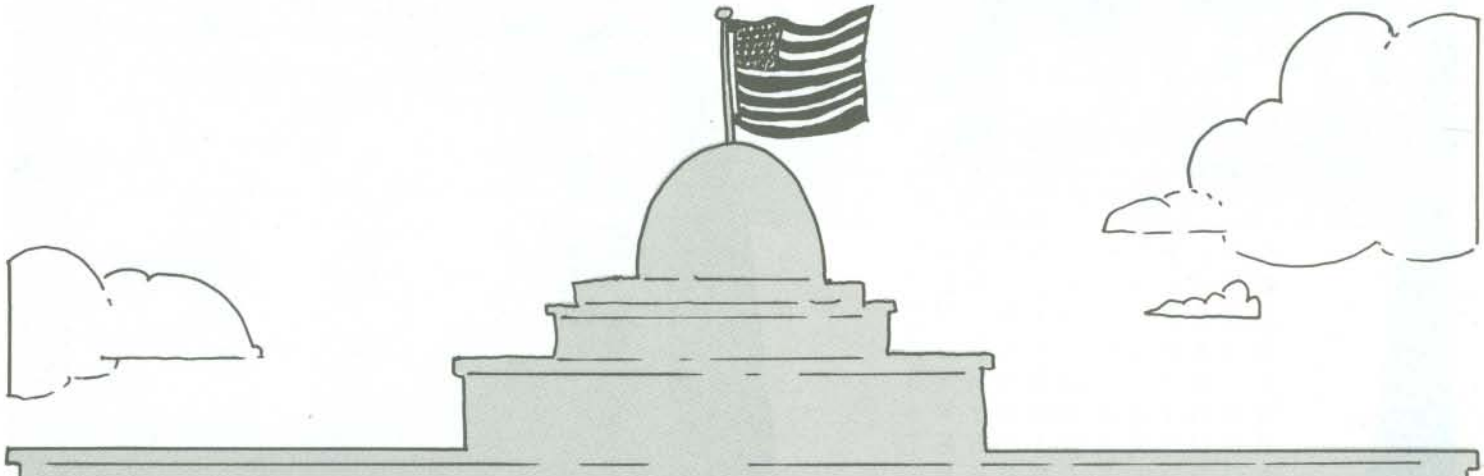
SECOND MEETING OF RECYCLING COMMITTEE TODAY!
LAST WEEK DAVID, LEWIS, AND TONY MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO CLEAN UP THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL. AND WE EVEN MADE SOME MONEY FROM ALL THE PAPER THEY COLLECTED. TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR HARD WORK, THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE DECIDED TO HOLD A PIZZA PARTY IN THEIR HONOR.
FOILED AGAIN!
G
I SAW THAT HUGE PILE OF PAPER.
HOW'D YOU EVER PICK IT ALL UP?
YOU GUYS ARE THE GREATEST!
BETSY, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO THAT PIZZA PARTY WITH ME?



Foil the Gremlin. Recycle this comic book. Share it with a friend.

RECYCLE TODAY!

THE GARBAGE GREMLIN COULD BE HEADED YOUR WAY!



KEEP THE GARBAGE GREMLIN OUT OF YOUR SCHOOL!

- Organize a cleanup day at your school, or of a neighborhood park or playground.
- Reduce the amount of waste you create by using paper on both sides, packing your lunch in reusable containers, and using glasses and dishes instead of disposable cups and plates.
- Hold a 1-day collection at your school of aluminum or bimetal cans, glass bottles, newspaper, plastic soda bottles or milk jugs, or other recyclables.
- Start an ongoing recycling program at your school, like the students of Clean Valley did.

OUTWIT THE GREMLIN

Dumpster Dig

Circle as many objects as you can find in the dumpster. Which of these can be recycled?

N P O P L A S B T G A M
W E B L A S T D I M O T
A S W A L U M I N U M O
S O A S O R T A C R S A
T D S T P V M S A M A S
E A H I E A S W N Y V I
P B U C A A P I C B E T
A O N J L T I E B E N O
P T G U D O R Y R F L Y
E L R G E G R E M L I N
R T C A R D B O A R D O
B E I R S T O N G O A L

RETHINK! REUSE! RECYCLE!

What are some things that you often throw away that could be reused or recycled?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

RECYCLING SCRAMBLE

Unscramble and order the steps of the recycling process.

amrekt eurse loltcec
aerpatse kermae

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

MATCH

Match each word with its meaning. Write the correct number in the blank.

1. Landfill ____ A place where paper, cans, bottles, and plastic wastes are collected and separated for recycling
2. Recyclables ____ Material made from yard and/or food waste that improves the soil for growing
3. Market ____ Waste, such as cans, bottles, and paper, that can be remade into new products
4. Drop-off center ____ A place to buy and sell recycled products
5. Cornpost ____ A specially constructed site for disposing of garbage

PUZZLER

If the Clean Valley school collects 16,400 pounds of paper for recycling, approximately how many trees will be saved?

ANSWERS: Dumpster Dig Recyclables — wastepaper, soda bottle, newspaper, plastic jug, aluminum, tin can, cardboard; Match — 1-4, 2-5, 3-2, 4-3, 5-1; Recycling Scramble — 1. collect, 2. separate, 3. remake, 4. market, 5. reuse; Puzzler — 139 trees.

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RECYCLE TODAY!

HELP STAMP OUT THE GARBAGE GREMLIN